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## **Memorandum**

To: All DOI Employees

From: Secretary Kempthorne //s//

Subject: Safety and Health Awareness Week, April 2–6, 2007

I am pleased to proclaim April 2–6, 2007, as Safety and Health Awareness Week at the Department of the Interior. The Department's theme this year is "Focus on Prevention." All managers, supervisors, and employees should use Safety and Health Awareness Week activities as an opportunity to communicate and demonstrate commitment to workplace safety, health, and security through planned activities.

The theme "Focus on Prevention" provides an opportunity to step back, take a fresh look at our operations, and assure ourselves that we are doing the best we can do to prevent situations that could result in injuries or fatalities on the job. Last year, the Department suffered eight fatalities of on-duty employees or volunteers, as well as 1,800 workplace injuries that kept employees and volunteers from coming back to work the day after the injury. This is not acceptable, and we must do everything within our ability to work safely, to follow Departmental and Bureau safety guidance, and to protect ourselves from potential harm. Managers have a special responsibility to provide a safe and healthy worksite and to provide employees with the guidance, support, resources, and knowledge to recognize and control hazards. I take this responsibility very seriously, and I expect all of our managers and supervisors to do the same.

Recently, the Office of Personnel Management released the results of the Federal Human Capital Survey. I am pleased to report that survey results showed that, overall, you feel protected from health and safety hazards on the job. At the same time, you feel less comfortable about the Department's preparation for security threats. In response, the Office of Law Enforcement and Security and Emergency Preparedness and the National Business Center will be partnering with the Office of Occupational Health and Safety to provide training activities during this designated week to help address these concerns and ensure that our employees feel prepared for all types of emergencies.

All Department offices are encouraged to conduct these activities during this designated week. However, Bureaus and Field Offices/sites have the flexibility to conduct their safety week activities at a time that is most appropriate between now and the beginning of the busy summer season, so as to reach the greatest number of employees possible.